



## ***REGIONAL EMPOWERMENT, ECONOMIC GROWTH:*** Accessing Technology in the Delta Region



January 25-26, 2001

Vicksburg Convention Center ■ Vicksburg, MS

# **Speaker Bios**

## **TIM R. STEPHENSON -- BIOGRAPHY**

### **Tim R. Stephenson, Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) Program Director**

Mr. Stephenson is the founder and Director of the nationally recognized Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) Program developed at Greenbrier, Arkansas.

After an enriching career in law enforcement, he decided to become a classroom teacher and help to build guardrails at the top of cliffs rather than spend his life picking up the pieces at the bottom. He returned to college, at age 40 and earned a BS degree from The University of Central Arkansas in Geography, postgraduate teaching certification. His first teaching assignment was in the Greenbrier Arkansas school system where he developed the EAST program.

EAST is a performance based educational model that uses project based service learning in a high tech laboratory environment. As a classroom teacher, Mr. Stephenson established and implemented the successful pilot project that has resulted in a new generation of academic partnerships with business, academia and education. Based upon the results of this pilot project, he led the development and implementation of the essential support infrastructure and additional partnerships required to replicate and share this educational model. Based upon a proven track record of performance, EAST has become one of the primary educational technology initiatives in Arkansas. This program has been successfully shared with 98 school districts in four states with high performance results in each case. He has been responsible for coordinating business contributions to schools of \$42 million dollars and has written and administered \$7.481 million dollars in grant awards. He is currently serving as the Project EAST Director and is administering the implementation of 25 additional EAST sites in Arkansas as well as expanding the EAST program to 12 developmental sites in Illinois, and 10 in California.